

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for project development within an enterprise, comprising:
 - gathering project related information from different sources within the enterprise;
 - using the gathered information to create a plurality of reports, at least one of the reports including a portion of the project related information from a first source and a portion of the project related information from a second source;
 - displaying, in a graphical user interface providing access to a plurality of sub-graphical user interfaces, the gathered information and the reports for assessment;
 - analyzing the displayed information and reports to monitor the progress of the project through the project development process;
 - determining an end of a phase of the project development process; and
 - notifying at least one individual with responsibility for a next phase of the project development process, upon the completion of the previous phase within the project development process, by automatically sending a message to the at least one of the individuals with responsibility for the next phase in the project development process, the message informing the at least one individual that the next phase can begin.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the sources from which project related information is gathered are selected from a group of sources comprising:
 - a human resources data system;
 - a billing system;
 - a fiscal information system;
 - a financial time reporting system;

- a knowledge/document management system;
- a project management information system;
- a requirements management system;
- a process modeling tool; and
- a tactical project planning and management tool.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the sources from which project related information is gathered include each of a group of sources comprising:

- a human resources data system;
- a billing system;
- a fiscal information system;
- a financial time reporting system;
- a knowledge/document management system;
- a project management information system;
- a requirements management system;
- a process modeling tool; and
- a tactical project planning and management tool.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the reports are selected from a group of reports comprising:

- the actual costs of a project;
- the actual time spent on a project; and
- quality metrics related to the actual costs and time of a project compared to the estimated costs and time.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the reports include each of a group of reports comprising:
 - the actual costs of a project;
 - the actual time spent on a project; and
 - quality metrics related to the actual costs and time of a project compared to the estimated costs and time.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein further steps in the monitoring of the progress of the project are performed through interaction with a graphical user interface and are selected from a group of steps comprising:
 - approving the concept to move from one phase of the project development process to the next phase;
 - providing an estimate of the cost of a change to the scope of a project;
 - viewing the status of a project;
 - viewing a timeline of the work done on a project;
 - viewing a timeline of the work remaining on a project;
 - viewing the human resources assigned to a project;
 - viewing the large-scale initiatives to which the project is related;
 - automatically updating a schedule when project-related events occur; and
 - calculating a score reflecting the worthiness of a project-related concept.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein further steps in the monitoring of the progress of the project are performed through interaction with a graphical user interface and include each of a group of steps comprising:

approving the concept to move from one phase of the project development process to the next phase;

providing an estimate of the cost of a change to the scope of a project;

viewing the status of a project;

viewing a timeline of the work done on a project;

viewing a timeline of the work remaining on a project;

viewing the human resources assigned to a project;

viewing the large-scale initiatives to which the project is related;

automatically updating a schedule when project-related events occur; and

calculating a score reflecting the worthiness of a project-related concept.

8. A method for managing a project development process comprising:
- characterizing the type of work to be done within a project;
 - categorizing the type of work based on the characterization;
 - routing the work to an appropriate organization based on the categorization;
 - displaying steps in the project development process in a set of computer-based graphical user interfaces all of which can be accessed, via one or more electronic links, from a single graphical user interface; and
 - performing actions in the project development process through interactions with the graphical user interfaces.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the actions are selected from a group of actions comprising:
- approving the concept to move from one phase of the project development process to the next phase;
 - providing an estimate of the cost of a change to the scope of a project;
 - viewing the status of a project;
 - viewing a timeline of the work done on a project;
 - viewing a timeline of the work remaining on a project;
 - viewing the human resources assigned to a project;
 - viewing the large-scale initiatives to which the project is related;
 - calculating a score reflecting the worthiness of a project-related concept;
 - creating reports related to the project development process; and
 - viewing the reports.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

upon the completion of a phase within the project development process, automatically sending a message to at least one individual with responsibility for the next phase in the project development process informing the individual that the next phase can begin; and
automatically updating a schedule when project-related events occur.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the actions include each of a group of actions comprising:

approving the concept to move from one phase of the project development process to the next phase;
providing an estimate of the cost of a change to the scope of a project;
viewing the status of a project;
viewing a timeline of the work done on a project;
viewing a timeline of the work remaining on a project;
viewing the human resources assigned to a project;
viewing the large-scale initiatives to which the project is related;
calculating a score reflecting the worthiness of a project-related concept;
creating reports related to the project development process; and
viewing the reports.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

upon the completion of a phase within the project development process, automatically sending a message to at least one individual with responsibility for the next phase

in the project development process informing the individual that the next phase can begin; and
automatically updating a schedule when project-related events occur.

13. A system for managing a project development process comprising:
- a set of computer-based graphical user interfaces all of which can be accessed, via one or more electronic links, from a single graphical user interface, each of which displays project-related information and each of which allows actions in the management of the progress of a project to be performed through interaction with the graphical user interfaces.
14. The system of claim 13 wherein the actions are selected from a group of actions comprising:
- approving the concept to move from one phase of the project development process to the next phase;
- providing an estimate of the cost of a change to the scope of a project;
- viewing the status of a project;
- viewing a timeline of the work done on a project;
- viewing a timeline of the work remaining on a project;
- viewing the human resources assigned to a project;
- viewing the large-scale initiatives to which the project is related;
- calculating a score reflecting the worthiness of a project-related concept;
- creating reports related to the project development process; and
- viewing the reports.
15. The system of claim 14 further comprising:
- upon the completion of a phase within the project development process, automatically sending a message to at least one individual with responsibility for the next phase

in the project development process informing the individual that the next phase can begin; and
automatically updating a schedule when project-related events occur.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein the actions include each of a group of actions comprising:
- approving the concept to move from one phase of the project development process to the next phase;
 - providing an estimate of the cost of a change to the scope of a project;
 - viewing the status of a project;
 - viewing a timeline of the work done on a project;
 - viewing a timeline of the work remaining on a project;
 - viewing the human resources assigned to a project;
 - viewing the large-scale initiatives to which the project is related;
 - calculating a score reflecting the worthiness of a project-related concept;
 - creating reports related to the project development process; and
 - viewing the reports.

17. The system of claim 16 further comprising:
- upon the completion of a phase within the project development process, automatically sending a message to at least one individual with responsibility for the next phase in the project development process informing the individual that the next phase can begin; and
 - automatically updating a schedule when project-related events occur.